

DISC

Playing time:	74 minutes, 33 seconds maximum
Rotation:	Counter-clockwise when viewed from readout surface
Rotational speed:	1.2–1.4 m/sec.
Track pitch:	1.6 μm
Diameter:	120 mm
Thickness:	1.2 mm
Center hole diameter:	15 mm
Recording area:	46 mm–117 mm
Signal area:	50 mm–116 mm
Material:	Any transparent material with 1.55 refraction index, such as polycarbonate
Minimum pit length:	0.833 μm (1.2 m/sec.) to 0.972 μm (1.4 m/sec.)
Maximum pit length:	3.05 μm (1.2 m/sec.) to 3.56 μm (1.4 m/sec.)
Pit depth:	Approx. 0.11 μm
Pit width:	Approx. 0.5 μm

OPTICAL SYSTEM

Standard wavelength:	$\lambda = 780 \text{ nm } (7,800\text{\AA})$
Focal depth:	$\pm 2 \mu\text{m}$
$(\lambda/NA \leq 1.75 \mu\text{m}, NA: \text{Numerical Aperture})$	

SIGNAL FORMAT

Number of channels:	2 channels (4-channel recording possible)
Quantization:	16-bit linear quantization
Quantizing timing:	Concurrent for all channels
Sampling frequency:	44.1 kHz
Channel bit rate:	4.3218 Mb/sec.
Data bit rate:	2.0338 Mb/sec.
Data-to-channel bit ratio:	8:17
Error correction code:	CIRC (with 25% redundancy)
Modulation system:	EFM

Table 3.1 Specification table for the compact disc system.

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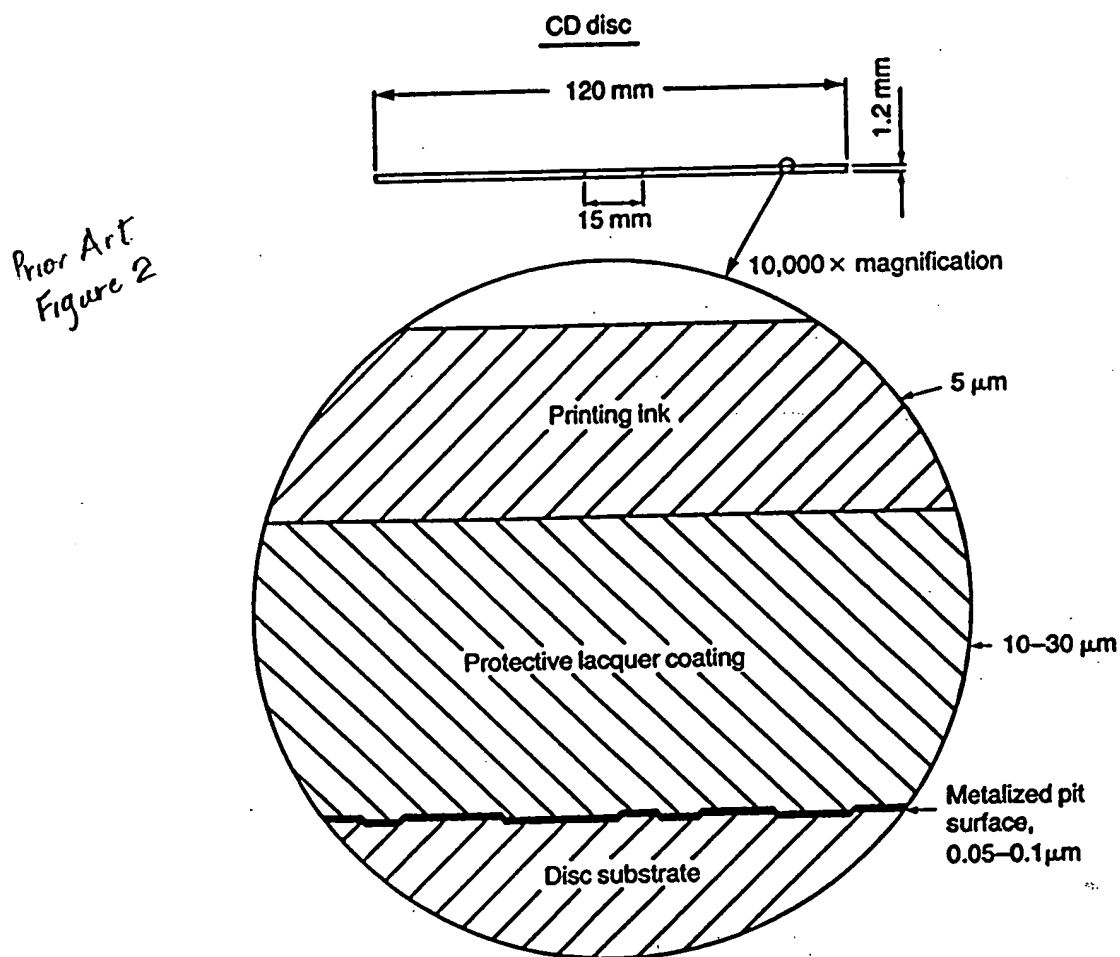


Figure 3.1 Scale drawing of CD data surface.

thickness is 1.2 millimeters. The innermost part of the disc does not hold data; it provides a clamping area for the player to hold the disc firmly to the spindle motor shaft. Data is recorded on an area 35.5 millimeters wide. A lead-in area rings the innermost data area, and a lead-out area rings the outermost area. The lead-in and lead-out areas contain non-audio data used to control the player. On many discs, a change in appearance in the reflective data surface marks the end of the musical information.

A transparent plastic substrate forms most of a disc's 1.2 millimeter thickness. Data is physically contained in pits which are impressed along its top surface and are covered with a very thin (50 to 100 nanometers) metal (e.g., aluminum, silver, or gold) layer. Another thin (10 to 30 micrometers) plastic layer protects the metalized pit surface, on top of which the

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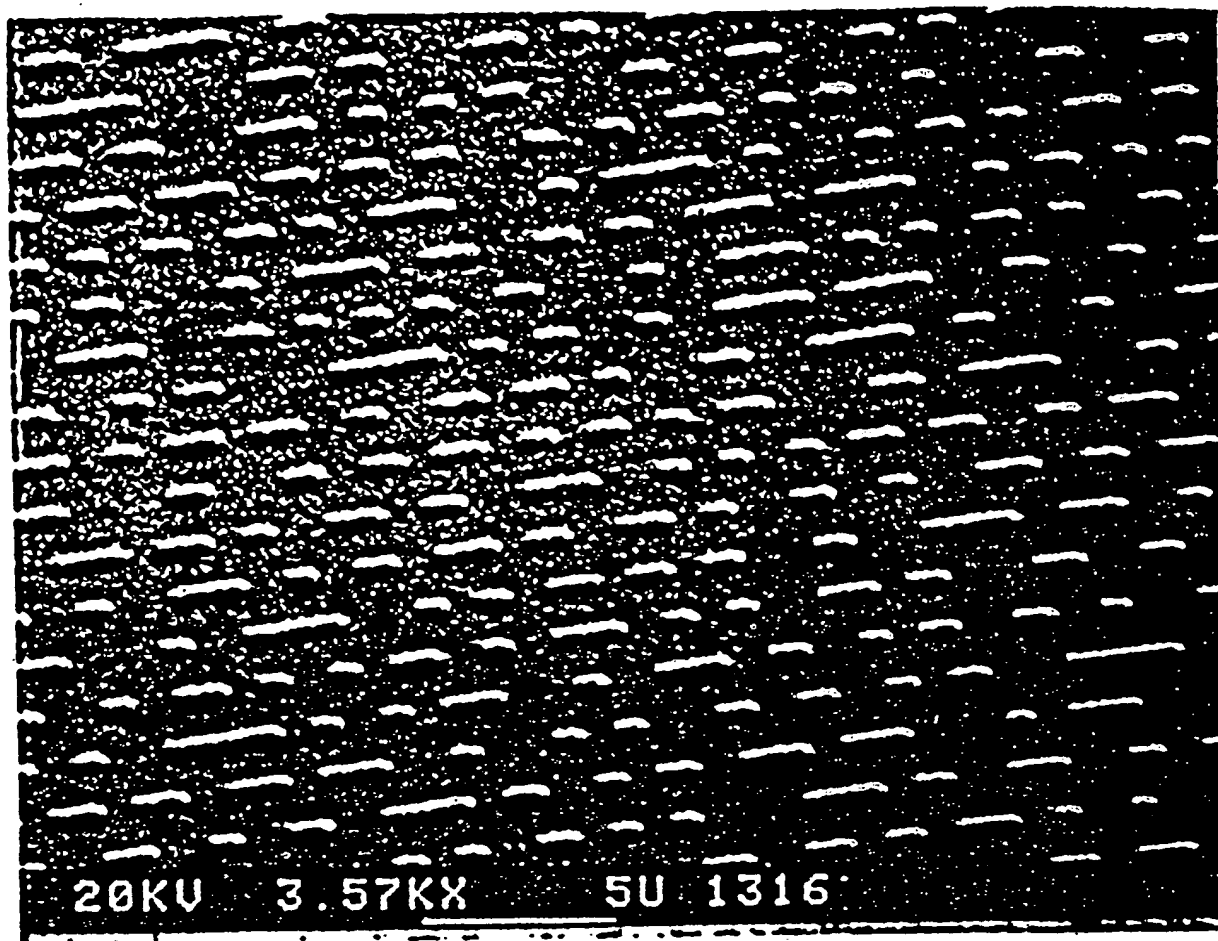


Figure 3.2 *Compact disc pit surface (photo: University of Miami).*

Prior Art Fig. 3

with shorter playing time thus provide a greater manufacturing yield. In addition, by starting from the inside, adoption of smaller diameter discs (such as 8 centimeter CD-3 discs) or larger diameter discs (such as 20 and 30 centimeter CD-Video discs) is facilitated.

Figure 3.3 diagrams the track pitch, the distance between successive tracks, which is 1.6 micrometers (that's about 600 tracks to a millimeter). There are 22,188 revolutions across the disc's signal surface of 35.5 millimeters. A pit track might contain 3 billion pits. Unspiraled, the track would stretch about 3 1/2 miles. The construction of the CD is diffraction-limited—that is, the wave nature of light would not permit smaller formations. The track pitch acts as a diffraction grating, producing a rainbow of colors. In fact, CD pits are among the smallest of all manufactured formations.

Examination of a pit track would reveal that the linear dimensions of the track are the same at the beginning of its spiral as at the end. This means that a CD must rotate with CLV (constant linear velocity), a condition in which a uniform relative velocity is maintained between the disc and the pickup.

Prior Art
Fig. 4

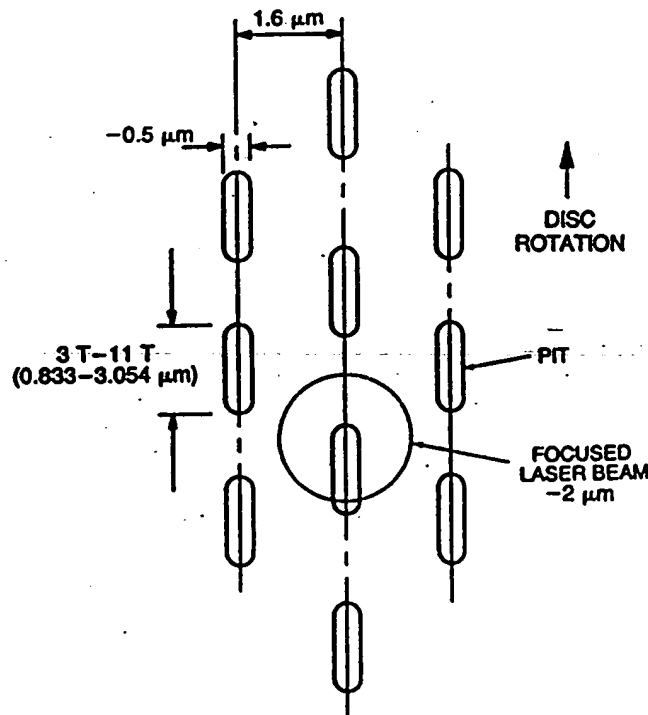


Figure 3.3 Track pitch is 1.6 micrometers. Data is read through an intensity-modulated laser beam.

ters. The height of the bumps is thus approximately $1/4$ of the laser's wavelength in the substrate.

Assume the height is exactly $1/4$ the laser's wavelength. Light striking land thus travels a distance $1/2$ wavelength ($1/4 + 1/4$) further than light striking a bump. This creates a phase difference of $1/2$ wavelength between the part of the beam reflected from the bump and the part reflected from the surrounding land, as shown in figure 3.5. The phase difference causes the two parts of the beam to destructively interfere with and cancel each other, forming a diffraction pattern. In short, a bump disperses light, reducing the intensity of the reflected light.

In theory, when the beam strikes an area between pits, virtually all of its light is reflected, and when it strikes a pit, virtually all of its light is cancelled, so that virtually none is reflected. In practice, the laser spot is larger than is required for complete cancellation between pit and land reflections, and pits are made slightly shallower than the theoretical figure of $1/4$ wavelength; this yields a better tracking signal, among other things. About 25 percent of the power of the incident light is reflected from a long bump. In any case, the presence of pits and land is thus read by the laser beam; specifically, the disc surface modulates the intensity of the light beam. Thus the data physically encoded on the disc can be recovered by the laser and later converted to an electrical signal.

So much for the physically obvious, whether visible to the naked eye or not. Not obvious at all is the format by which the data is physically encoded

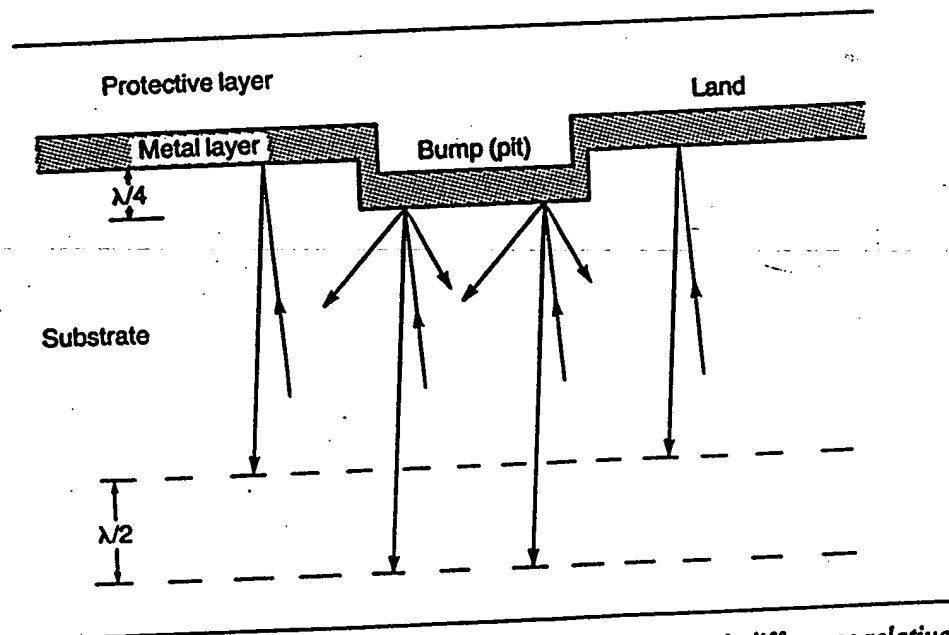


Figure 3.5 A bump (pit) height causes a $1/2$ wavelength path difference relative to land.

Prior Art Fig. 5

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Figure 6

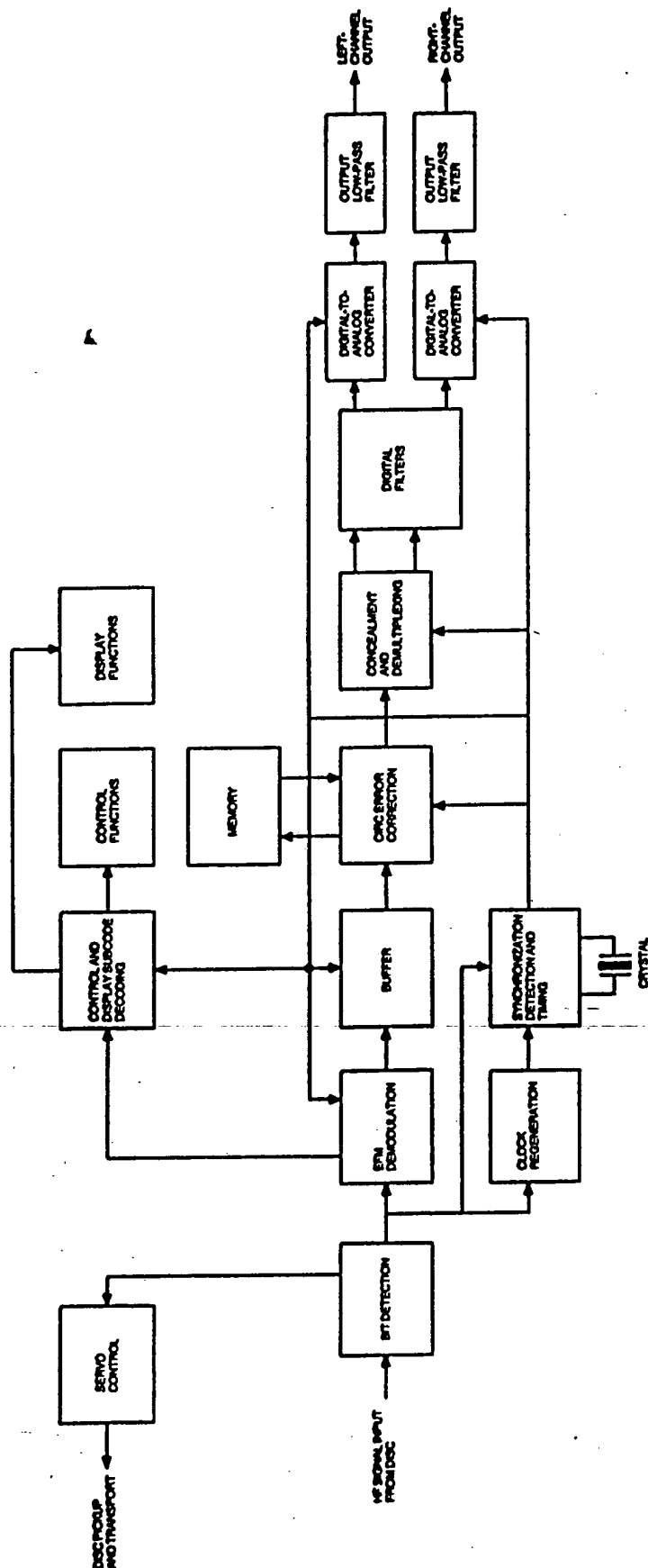


Figure 4.1 Block diagram of a CD player showing audio path, as well as servo

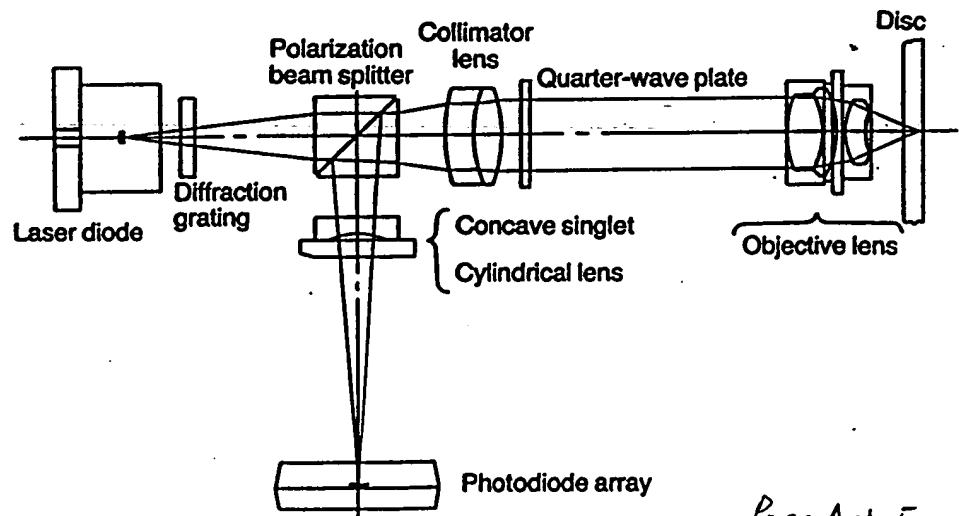
pickups are usually mounted on the end of a pivoting arm which swings the pickup across the disc in an arc. Three-beam pickups are always mounted on a sled which slides linearly across the disc. Let's consider both types of pickups, beginning with the three-beam design.

Three-Beam Optical Design

Although design particulars vary among manufacturers, three-beam pickups are generally similar in function. Figure 4.3 illustrates the optical path of a three-beam pickup. A one-beam pickup uses a similar optical path.

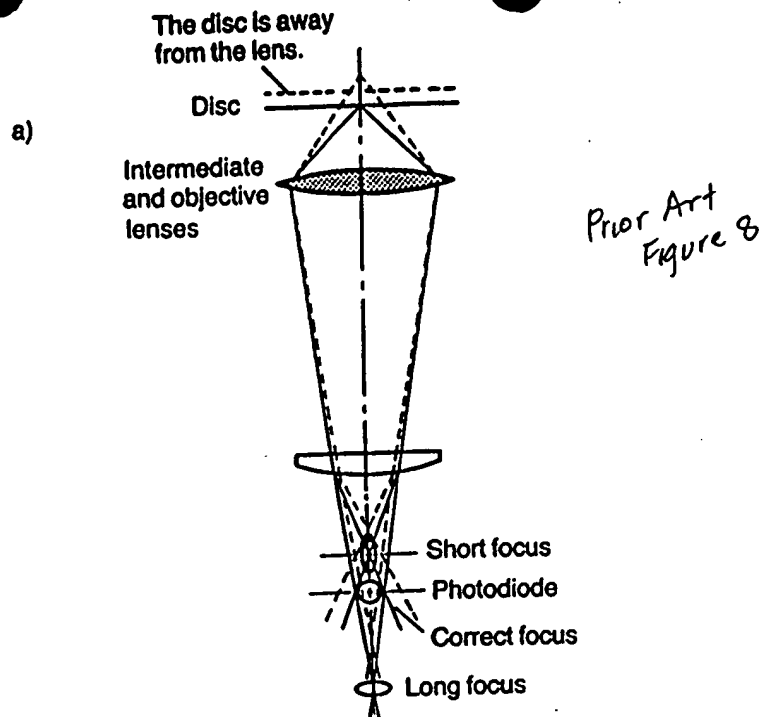
To achieve sharp focus on the data surface and proper intensity modulation from the pit height, it is necessary to use a laser as the light source. Laser is an acronym for *light amplification by stimulated emission of radiation*. A laser uses an optical resonator to stimulate atoms to a higher energy level that induces them to radiate in phase. Laser light differs significantly from white, visible light. A light bulb, for example, radiates all the frequencies of the spectrum at all different phases. A laser light is monochromatic (composed of a single frequency), and is coherent in phase. Phase coherency is vital, of course, to implement phase cancellation in the beam produced by disc pits so that disc data can be read. CD pickups use an aluminum gallium arsenide (AlGaAs) semiconductor laser with, for example, a 0.5 milliwatt optical output radiating a coherent-phase laser beam with a 780 nanometer wavelength (some manufacturers use 790 nanometers). The beam is thus comprised of near-infrared light.

The laser diode is placed at the focal point of a collimator lens with a long focal distance. Its purpose is to make the divergent light rays parallel.

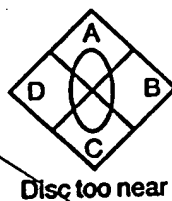


Prior Art Fig. 7

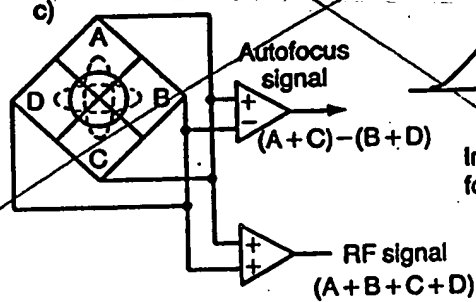
Figure 4.3 Optical path of a three-beam pickup.



b)



c)



d)

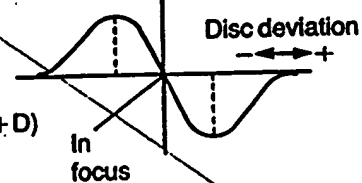


Figure 4.5 A three-beam pickup uses the properties of astigmatism to generate an auto-focus correction signal.

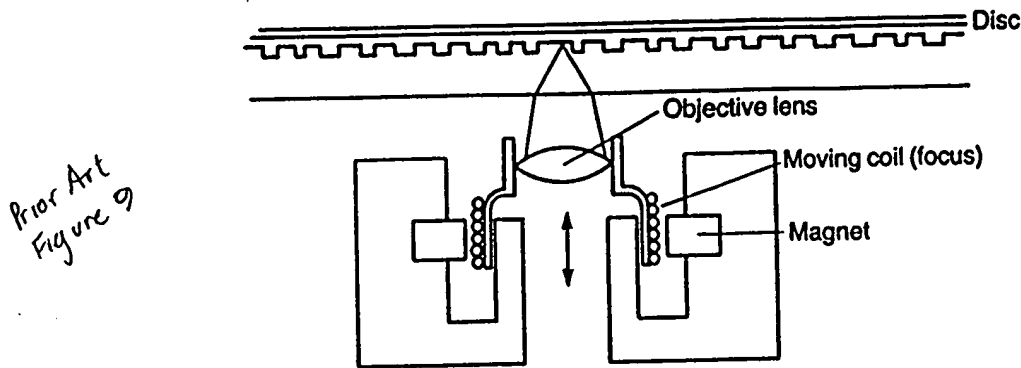


Figure 4.6 A coil and magnetic structure are used to move the objective lens in the optical path.

pickup floating underneath the spinning disc, maintaining focus to within a tolerance of approximately ± 0.5 micrometers.

Three-Beam Auto-Tracking

The track pitch, the distance between adjacent laps of the pit spiral, is 1.6 micrometers on a CD, which is too fine a tolerance for any mechanical tracking system to be cost-effective. An auto-tracking system is required. In three-beam pickups, the two secondary beams are used for auto-tracking. The center beam, which carries the information from the disc, is accompanied by the two secondary beams from the point of generation at the diffraction grating. The tracking beams also strike the data surface and are reflected. Their varying intensities are used at two separate photodiodes mounted alongside the four-quadrant photodiode.

The central beam spot covers the pit track while the two tracking beams are aligned above, below, and to either side of the center beam. Their relative position is firmly fixed. When the beam is tracking the disc properly, part of each tracking beam is aligned on the pit edge; the other part covers the mirrored land between pit tracks. The three beams are reflected through the quarter-wave plate and polarizing beam splitter; the main beam strikes the four-quadrant photodiode, and the two tracking beams strike two separate photodiodes (E and F) mounted to either side of the main photodiode, as illustrated in figure 4.7.

As the three spots drift to either side of the pit track, the amount of light reflected from the tracking beams varies. There is less average light intensity reflected by the beam which encounters more pit area, and greater reflected light intensity from the beam which encounters less pit area. The

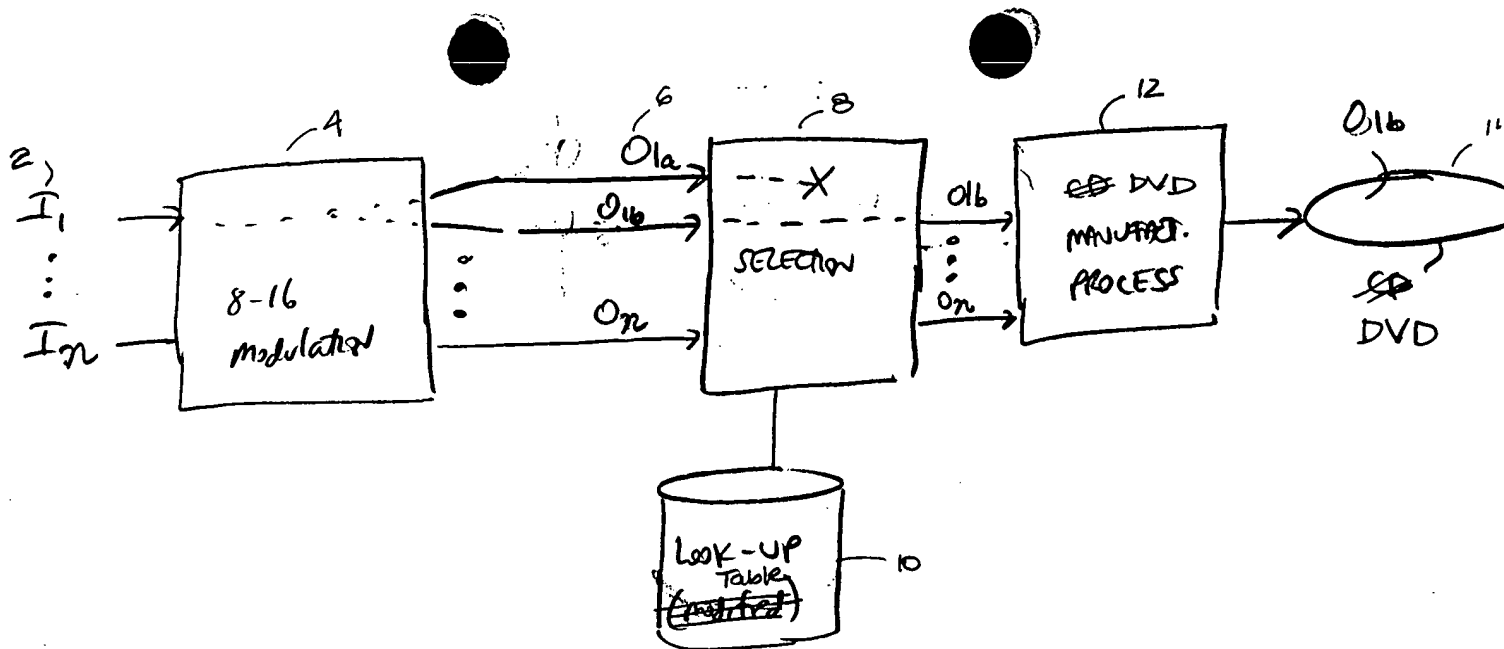
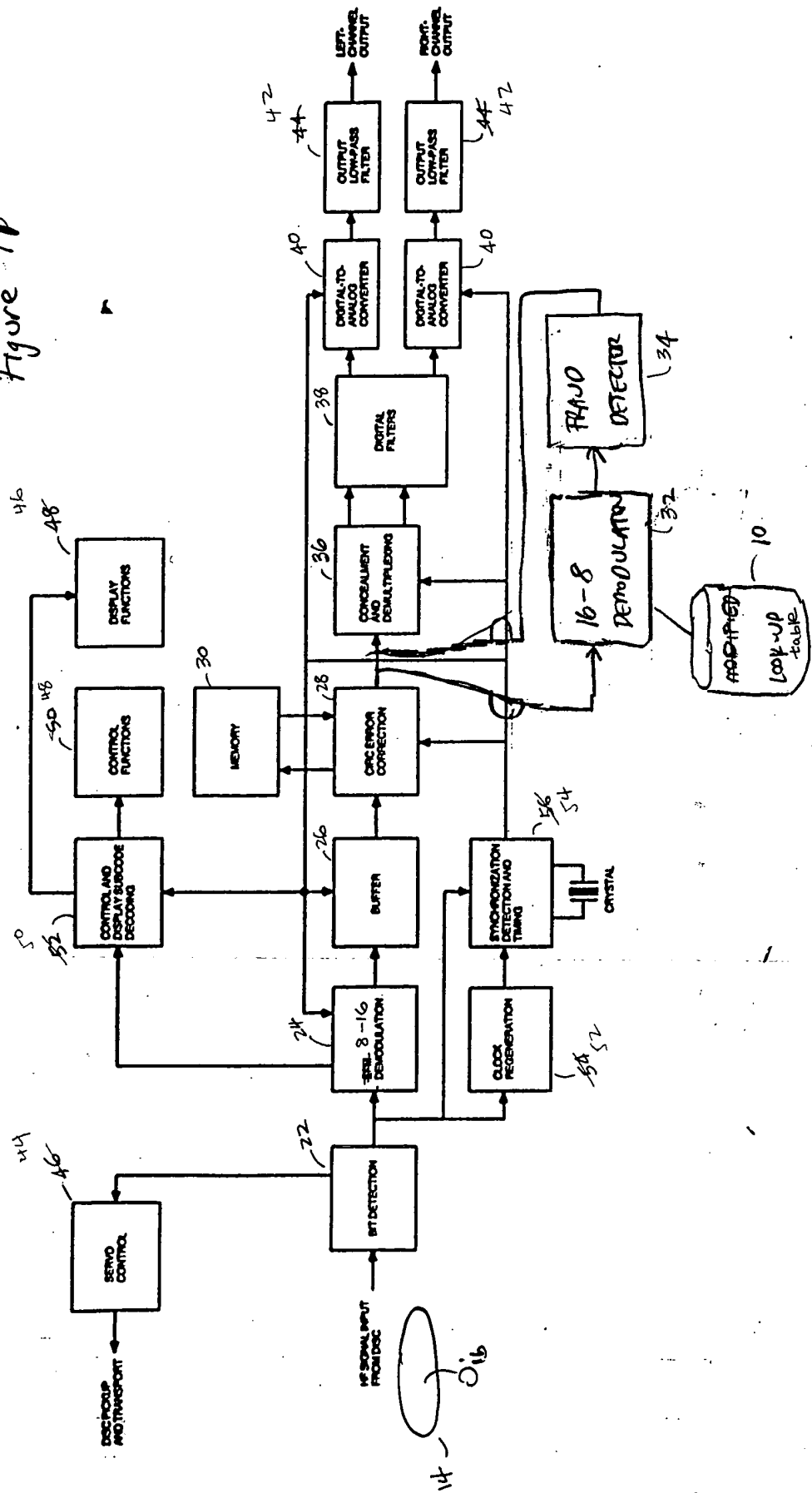


Fig. 10

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Figure 1b



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attempting to
play DVD

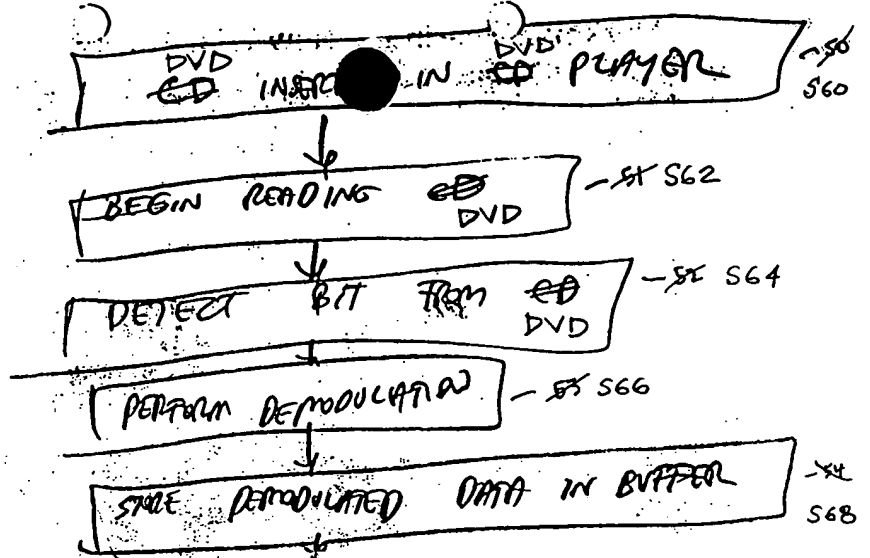
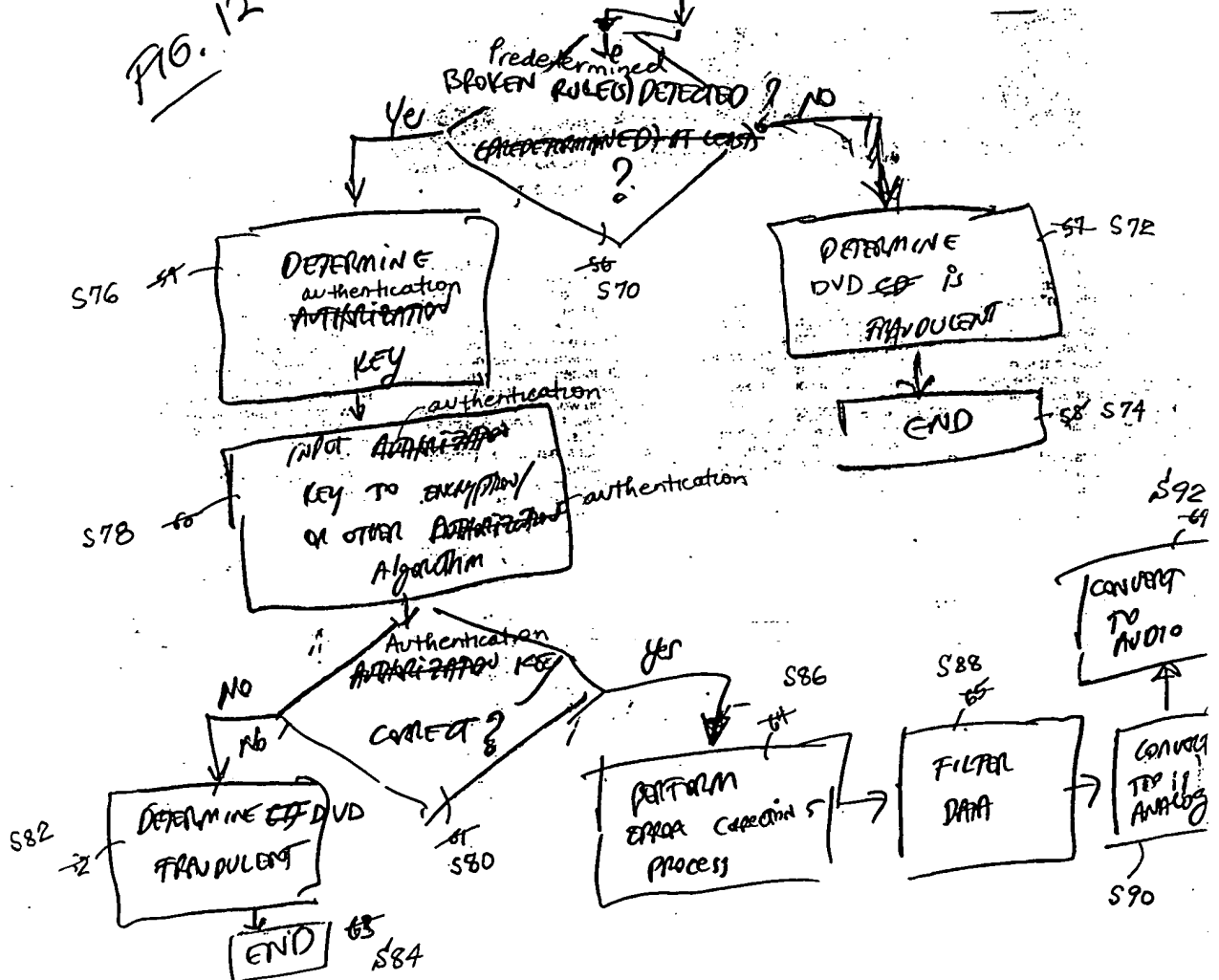


FIG. 12



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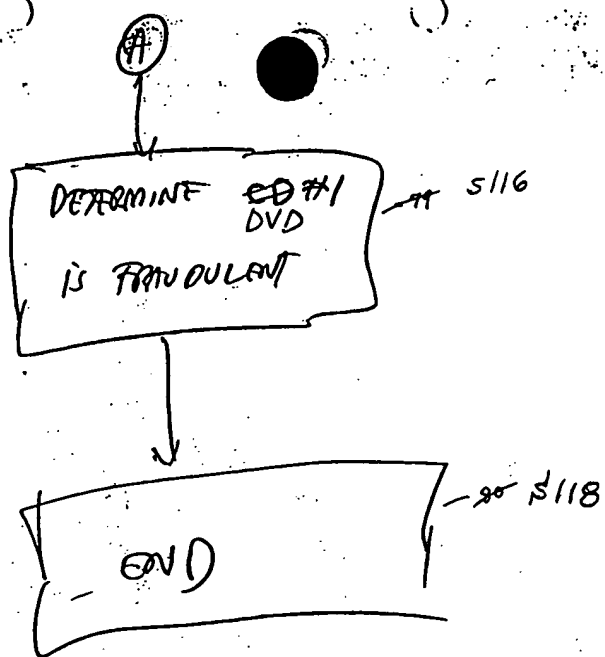


FIG. 14

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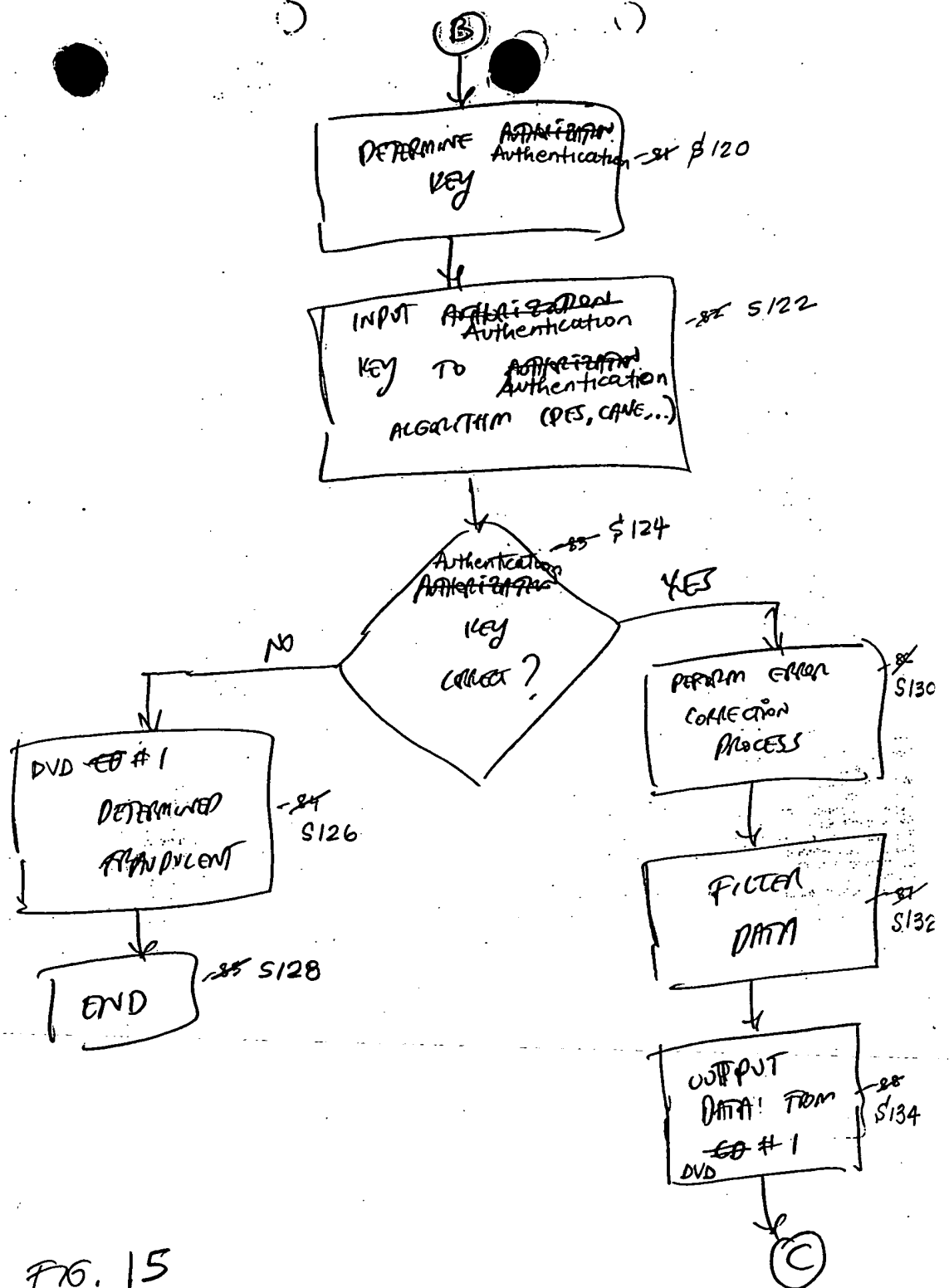
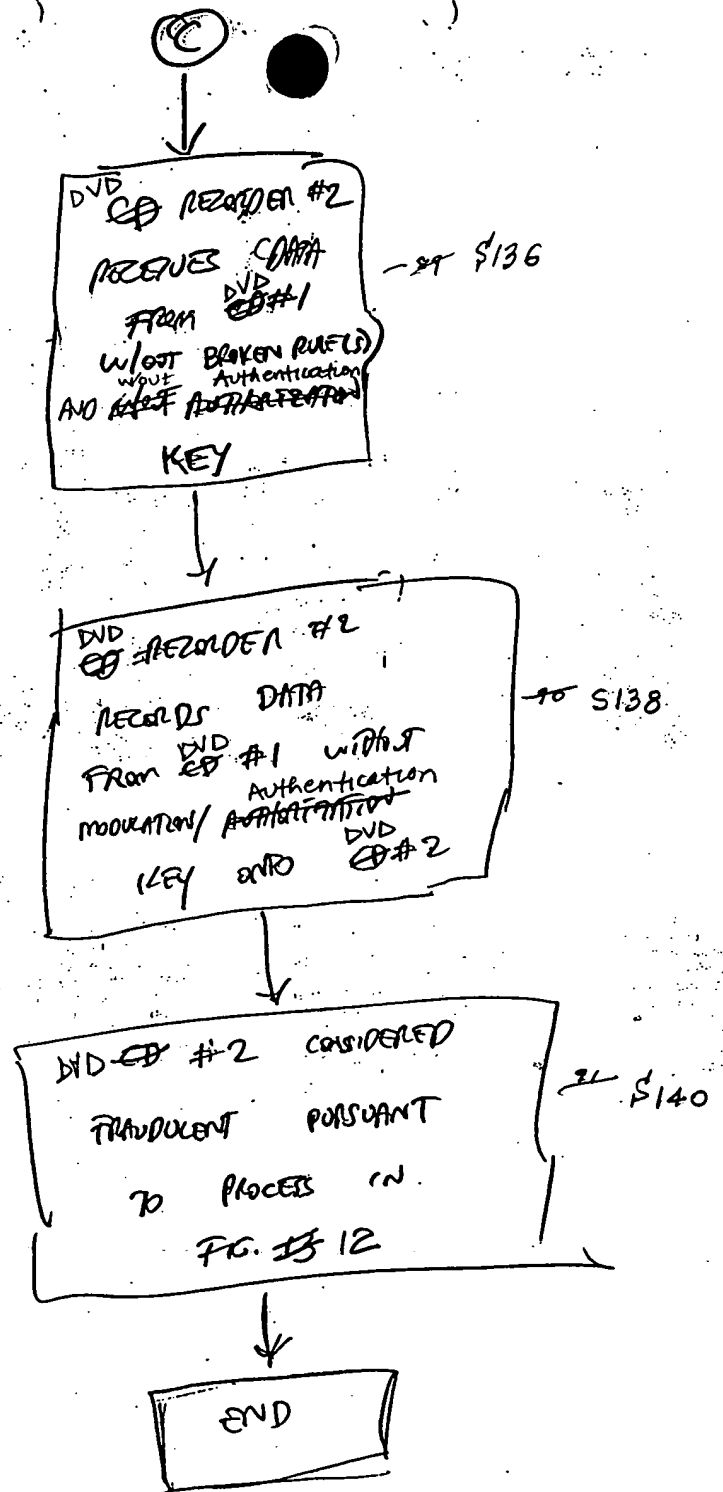


FIG. 15

FIG. 16



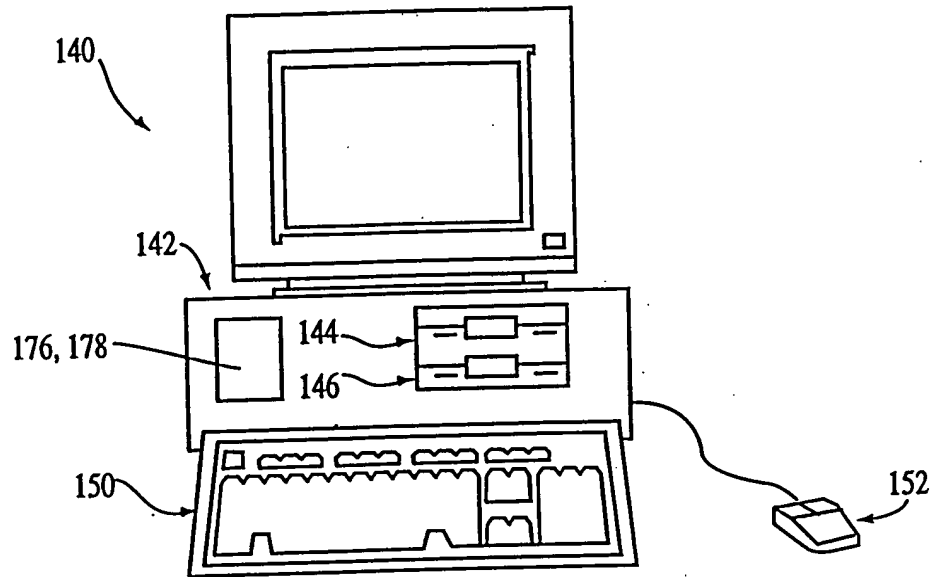


FIG. 17

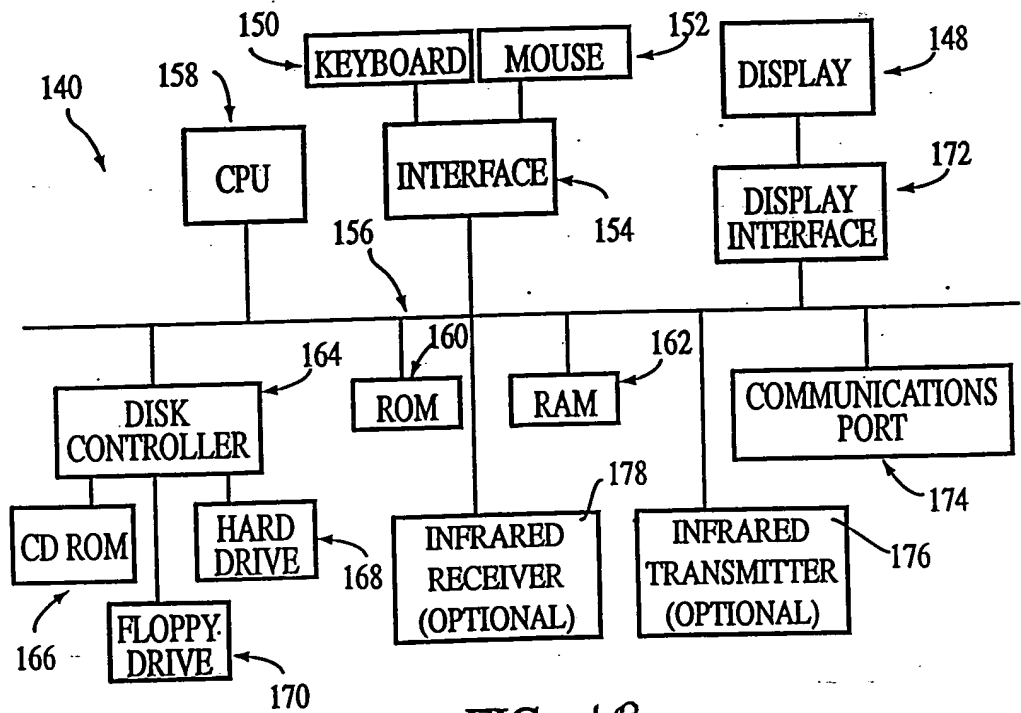


FIG. 18

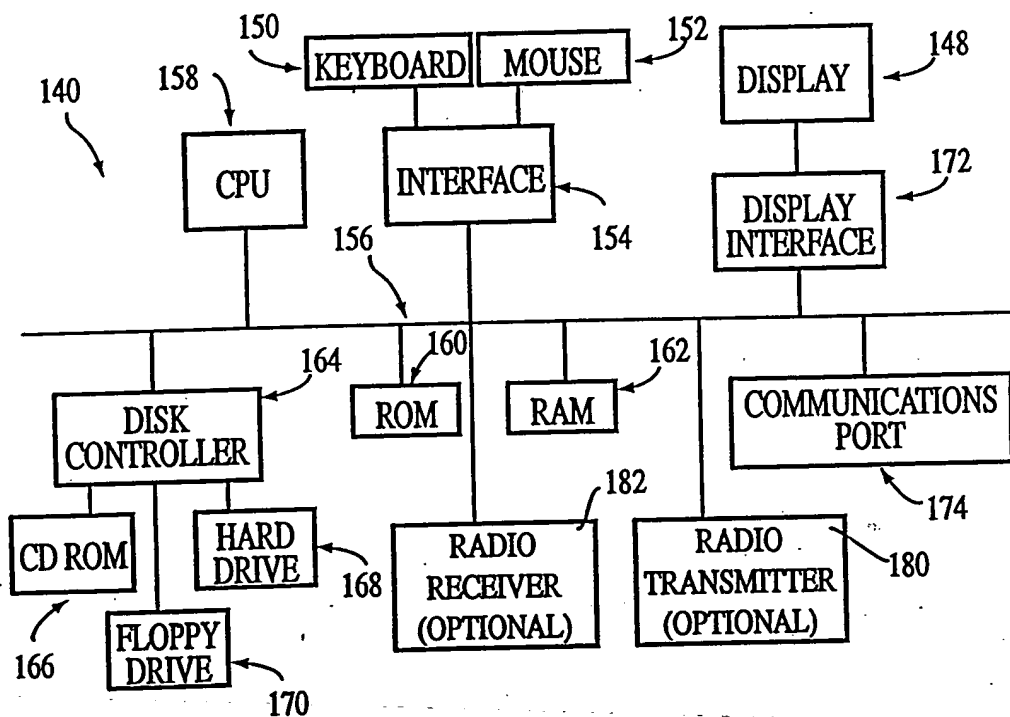


FIG. 19

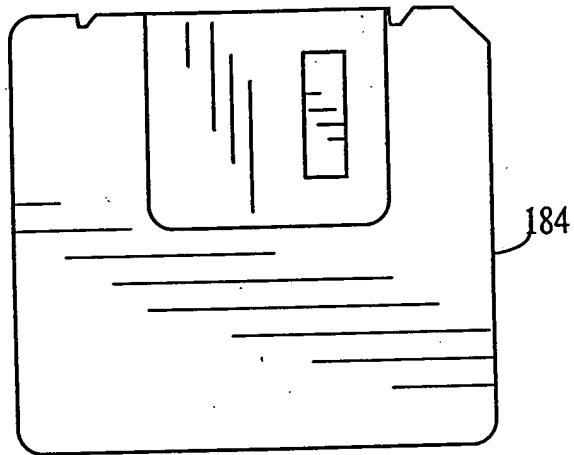


FIG. 20

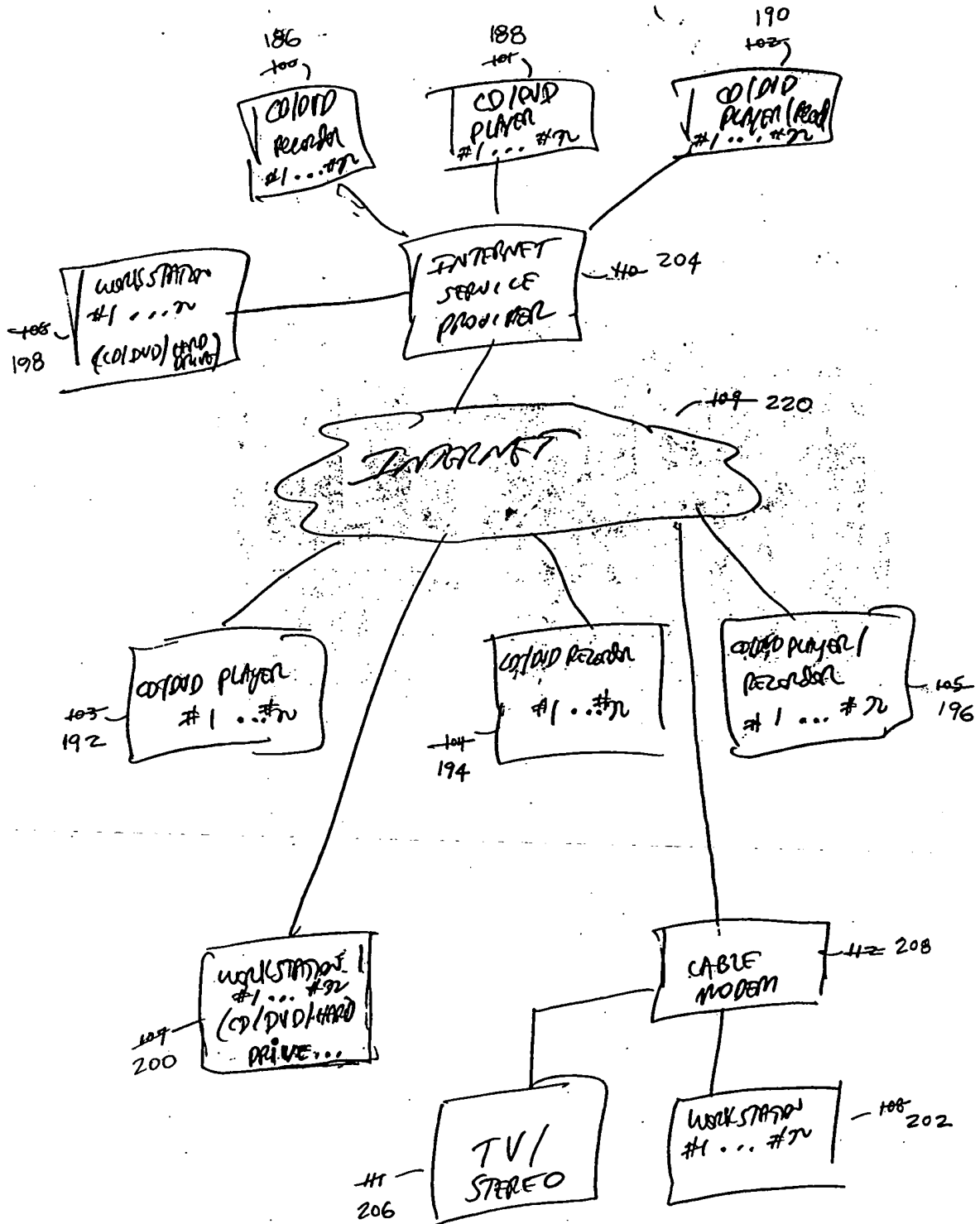


Figure 21

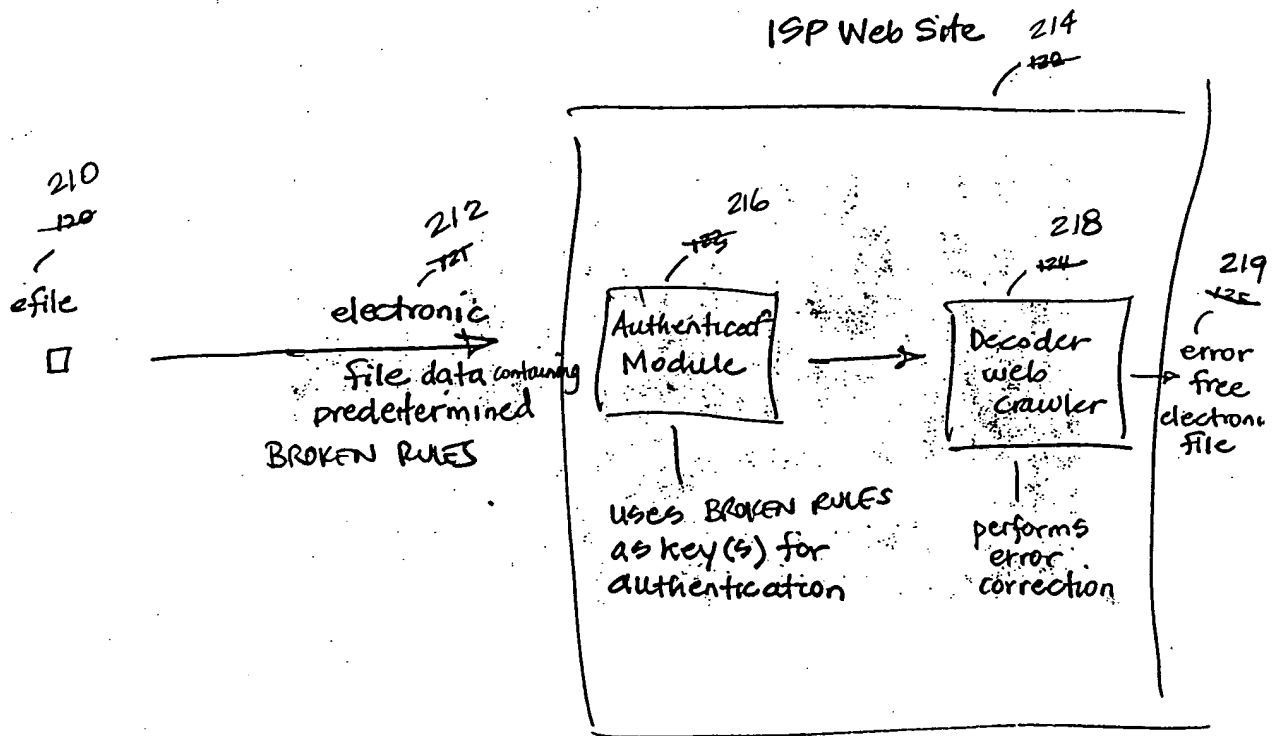


FIGURE 22

that happens
when user
receives
electronic music/video
file from the Internet for
playing

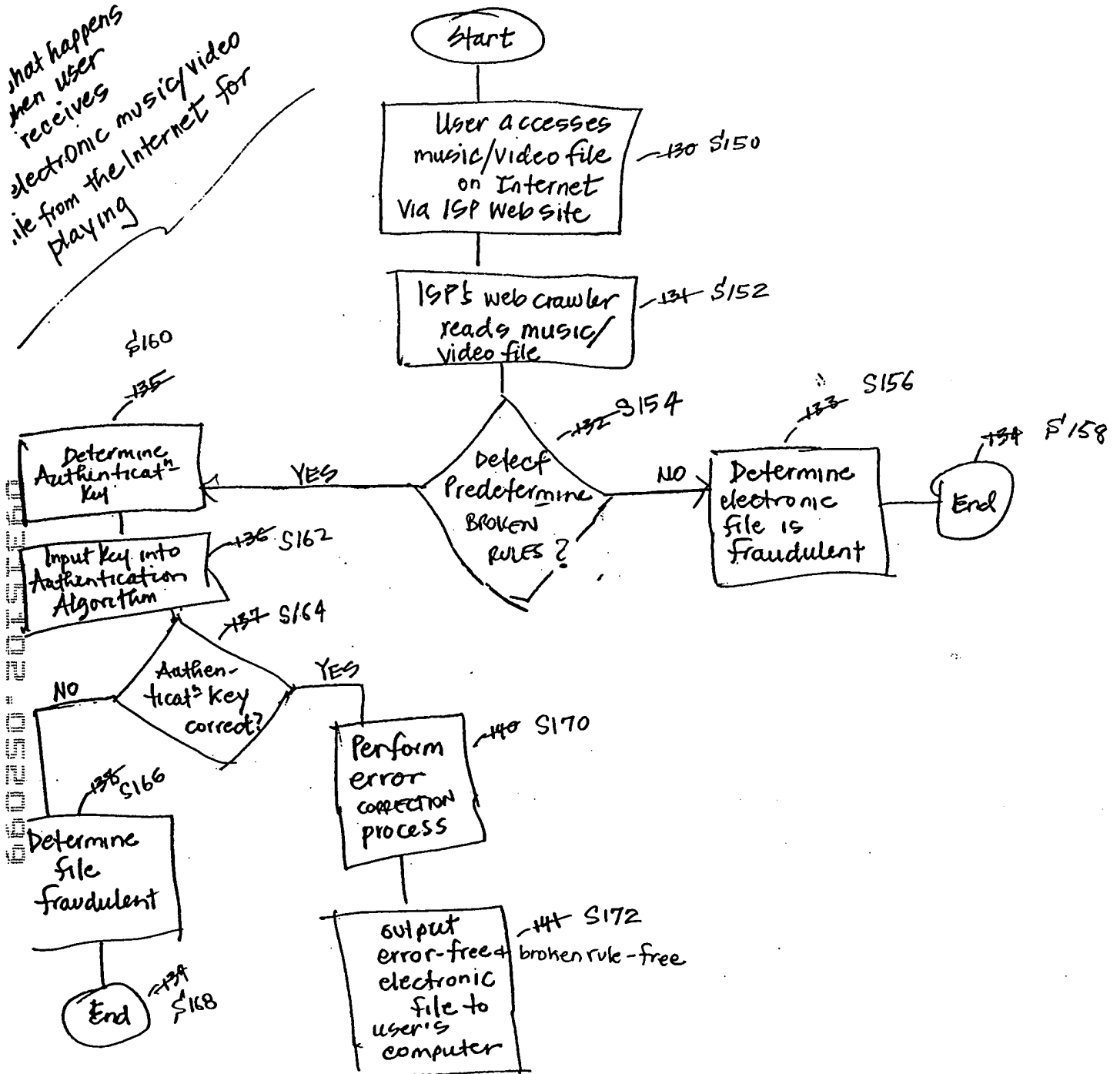
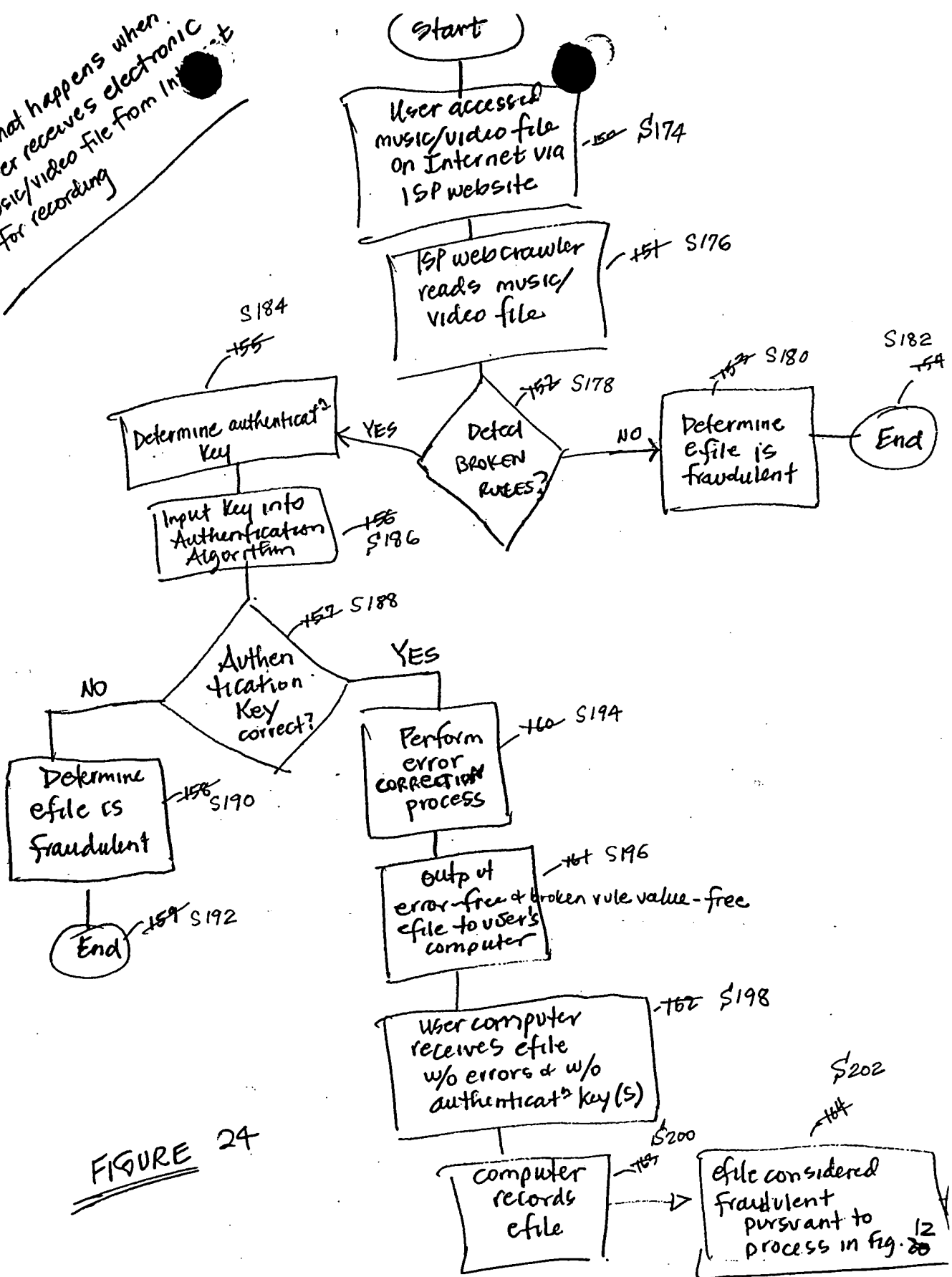


FIGURE 23

what happens when
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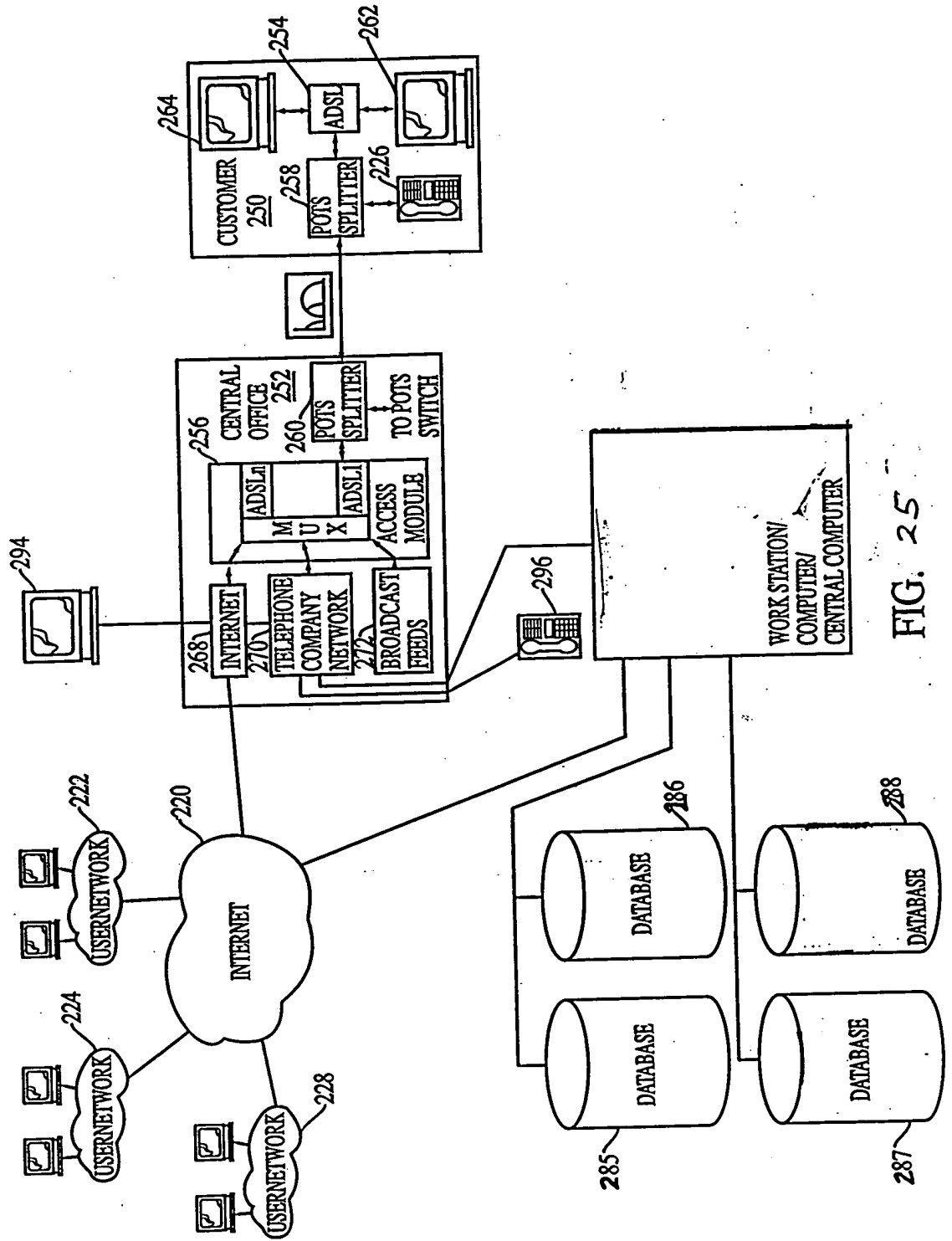


FIG. 25

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